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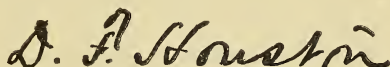
Issued July 5, 1915.

United States Department of Agriculture,**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.****NOTICE REGARDING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.**

To Farmers, Cattle Owners, Cattle Dealers, and County and Sanitary Officers:

The purpose of this circular is to enlist your further effective cooperation for measures that will make certain that the foot-and-mouth disease now under control shall have no chance to break out again. There is now no longer cause for alarm, but it is highly important that the hopefulness of the situation shall not lead to carelessness or unwarranted disregard of the seriousness of this most contagious of animal diseases.

If everyone will exercise a little patience as to necessary quarantine regulations and will cooperate heartily with the State and Federal authorities, we trust that we soon shall be able to say that the United States is entirely freed from this plague which so seriously threatened our great live-stock industry. If quarantines are lifted before it is certain that the last vestige of the disease has been killed in the locality—if cattle owners are just a little careless about reporting suspicious sickness in their cattle—the plague might again break out and all the costly and difficult work done since last October might have to be done over again. You are requested to read this circular carefully, to communicate its information to your neighbors, and to help build up in your locality a public spirit for measures which, while they may work some hardship on the individual owner or temporarily interrupt the cattle industry of the country, are absolutely essential to the safety of your cattle and to the immediate welfare of the Nation.

*Secretary of Agriculture.***A. D. MELVIN,***Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry.***WASHINGTON, D. C., June 17, 1915.**

COOPERATION IN KEEPING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE UNDER CONTROL.

A few scattering cases of foot-and-mouth disease are still reported from time to time, and as long as even these sporadic and quickly controlled occurrences continue the epidemic which first made its appearance in Michigan in 1914 can not be considered as entirely over. Carelessness may now undo the work of eight months and force the country to face once more the greatest danger that has ever threatened its live stock. By the immediate slaughter of all animals known to have been exposed to the infection, by the thorough disinfection of all premises and articles that might harbor the contagion, by the imposition of Federal and State quarantines, and by close inspection of cattle for shipment, the disease has been brought under control. These measures must be persisted in, however, until the last atom of infection has been destroyed beyond a doubt.

NECESSITY FOR CAREFULNESS.

At the present time farmers and stockmen are unquestionably inconvenienced by the quarantines which restrict and regulate the movement of their stock. The necessity for these regulations can not be realized until the extreme contagiousness of the disease is understood. Once a single animal in a herd gets foot-and-mouth disease, or where an infected animal is introduced into a clean herd, every animal in that herd is almost sure to contract it. Cattle, swine, sheep, and goats are the chief sufferers, but the disease may be conveyed not only by them, but by any article which has come into contact, no matter how indirectly, with an infected animal. Men, women, and children may carry the contagion on their shoes, clothing, and hands. Dogs, cats, rats, chickens, and pigeons may pick it up from the ground and carry it to another farm. Raw skim milk may transmit the disease, and hay and manure may easily be infected and made dangerous. In many cases farmers who have been induced by curiosity to inspect their neighbor's stricken herd have carried the contagion back with them to their own stock. In short, the foot-and-mouth disease is the most contagious of all known animal diseases. To be effective against it, a quarantine must be not only proportionately strict, but it must be continued until all danger of spreading the disease has passed. A quarantine that is lifted too soon is as useless as one that is not enforced.

NATURE OF QUARANTINES.

The quarantines now in force are of two kinds, State and Federal. The Federal quarantines relate exclusively to interstate traffic, the State to local conditions. Both, however, have the same object—to prevent the spread of the disease through any article which has become

contaminated by contact, no matter how indirect, with a stricken animal. Farms on which the disease has actually existed are isolated, as far as practicable, by the State authorities, and it is of the utmost importance that this isolation be enforced by county and township authorities and by the weight of public opinion. It is of almost equal importance that the necessity for the Federal regulations for the control of interstate movements of live stock and farm produce be appreciated by the people.

The territory now subject to Federal quarantine is divided into four classes, known respectively as closed, exposed, modified, and restricted areas.

Closed areas.—The closed areas comprise those localities in which the disease actually exists or is known to have existed very recently. From these areas the interstate movement of all cattle, sheep, goats, and swine is absolutely prohibited, and no stock can be brought in except for the purpose of immediate slaughter.

Exposed areas.—After the disease has been apparently stamped out by the slaughter of stricken herds and the disinfection of the premises that sheltered them, a closed area is transferred to the exposed classification. From exposed areas live stock which have been examined by Federal inspectors and found free from all signs of the disease may be shipped for immediate slaughter to any point within the quarantined area where there is a slaughtering establishment under Federal inspection, where they may be subjected to a second examination before being slaughtered. Stock may not be shipped, however, from exposed areas into free areas.

Modified areas.—After a sufficient length of time has elapsed to warrant the step, exposed areas are made modified areas. In these the regulations are the same except that the preliminary inspection of live stock before shipment for slaughter is not required. All shipments, however, from both exposed and modified areas are made subject to State regulations at their destination, for which the Federal Government is in no way responsible. Furthermore, such shipments must be unloaded and tended in special pens set aside for the purpose, the animals must be slaughtered within 48 hours after arrival at their destination, and they can not be reconsigned to other stockyards.

Restricted areas.—In the restricted areas the regulations are more lenient. Stock may be shipped for any purpose into any territory that has ever been under quarantine, except the closed area, and into the closed and free areas for immediate slaughter. The chief restriction, therefore, lies in the prohibition of shipments of "feeders and stockers" into areas in which the disease has never appeared. The inconvenience imposed by this rule upon stockmen is regarded as insignificant in comparison with the protection afforded large sections of the country.

DANGER OF INFECTED ANIMAL AND FEED PRODUCTS.

Not only live stock, but such articles as hides, hoofs, skins, hair, horns, hay, straw and similar fodder, manure, litter, etc., may convey the contagion. In consequence, the exportation of such articles without previous disinfection is prohibited in the exposed and closed areas. In the case of animal products, however, taken from animals before August 1, 1914, and stored since that date away from all live stock, shipment without disinfection is permitted on affidavit that these conditions have been complied with. Hay and straw, harvested before this date east of the Mississippi and before October 1 west of the Mississippi and stored in places away from live stock and not within 5 miles of any premises infected with the disease, also may be shipped on the same conditions. Other hay and straw must be first disinfected with formalin gas.

Experience in this and previous epidemics has shown conclusively that these precautions are necessary to prevent the disease being carried from one section of the country to another, just as local quarantines are necessary to prevent its sweeping through the herds of a county as smallpox used to sweep through cities. Where the people have realized this, the loss has been confined to comparatively small proportions; where it has not been realized and the temporary inconvenience caused by the quarantines has caused laxity in their enforcement, the loss has been crushing.

THE LESSON FROM EUROPE.

It is not, however, so much a matter of the present as of the future. If the disease were once to gain the foothold here that it has abroad, eradication would be an impossibility and the stock interests of the country would lose far more each year than it has cost to suppress this epidemic. In Germany in 1911 it was calculated that one out of seven animals susceptible to the disease was suffering from it. Under such circumstances the slaughter of exposed herds becomes an impossibility and the disease remains a chronic drain upon the resources of the country, as the price is too great to pay for freedom from such a calamity.